



The Village Official

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A. Martin Petrovic -
Mayor
mayor@trumansburg-ny.gov
(607)227-0310

Tim Lynch - Deputy Mayor
lynch@trumansburg-ny.gov

Ben Carver - Trustee
carver@trumansburg-ny.gov

Robert Cassetti - Trustee
cassetti@trumansburg-ny.gov

Rordan Hart - Trustee
hart@trumansburg-ny.gov

Village of Trumansburg
56 E Main St
Trumansburg, NY 14886
Phone: (607)387-6501
www.trumansburg-ny.gov

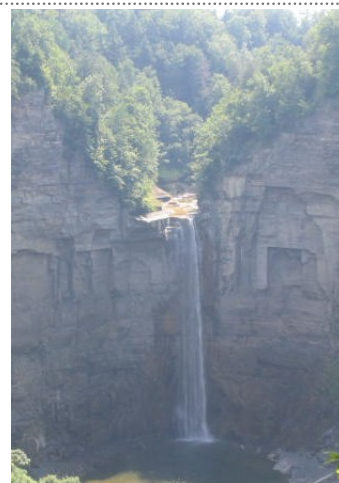
The Village Board of
Trustees meets on the
second Monday of each
month (except in the case
of holidays) at 7pm in the
Main Meeting Room in
the back of Village Hall.

Public attendance is
strongly encouraged!

Village of Trumansburg

In this, the second annual publication of The Village Official, the reader will find updates on ongoing Village infrastructure projects, a summary of the current budget and fiscal position, and much more.

In an ongoing effort to keep residents informed, and to promote transparency, please use this as a starting point for furthering interest in Village affairs, and as a source of information on current topics of interest.



Water/Waste Water Projects

For many years now, our Village has had one well to supply water. New York State regulations, however, require that a secondary supply be available to any municipality whose primary source is underground. The Village has evaluated several options for a secondary water source, including lake-source, tapping into existing water supplies of surrounding municipalities, and drilling a new well. After several years of study and discussion, the Village Board has chosen to develop a second well water source in Taughannock State Park.

Test drilling in the Park has been underway for many weeks and the results look very good, though testing continues at this time to ensure adequate volume and quality. Testing should com-

plete this summer, at which time construction of the pumping station will commence along with laying a new supply line along Taughannock Park Road and up to the Village via Falls Road. This new line will connect to the Park tank, which will allow the Park to purchase water from the Village. Routing the supply line along Taughannock Park Road, as opposed to north along Route 89 to the existing Village supply line and tank, will also provide a better redundancy and improved fail-over in the event that one source becomes unavailable.

The second well is expected to be fully operational by Fall 2015.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

As most residents are aware, our aging Village waste water treatment plant has been cited by both state regulators and concerned citizens for inadequate waste management. Steps have been taken, per state recommendations, to mitigate problems as best possible given the age and capabilities of our plant. Further improvements, however, require a full overhaul of the facility. That overhaul is now underway. You might have noticed surveyors recently down by the plant - they represent the first visible signs of this effort.

Design and planning will continue for several months with construction planned for 2015. The new waste water treatment plant should be completed and online by mid-2016.

From the Mayor's Desk

- A. Martin Petrovic, Mayor



Mayor Petrovic

As usual this winter was a busy time for Village staff and the Village Board. The Department of Public Works staff were extremely busy with snow removal and fixing a record number of water breaks this winter. The Village is also moving forward on several issues that have been major concerns to Village residents, including the problems related to the overabundance of deer, and walkability within the Village.

Based on response at the State of the Village meeting on March 29, the Village Board is moving forward with developing and implementing a deer management program within Village limits. The steps involved include: Writing and passing a local law allowing archery hunting (compound and cross bows only) in the Village, developing a deer management program (DMP), and the Village applying for NY DEC Deer Management Area Permits to increase the number of deer that can be har-

vested. The public will be able to review and comment on the archery hunting law and the details of the deer management program before approval and implementation by the Village Board. The DMP will be modeled after the one that is being successfully used in the Village of Lansing and will include the following plan items:

1. The Village acknowledges that it has a problem with deer overpopulation and the Board should do something to reduce the impact.
2. The village will not spend a lot of tax dollars addressing the problem.
3. The local law that allows archery hunting by property owners, or others approved by the yet-to-be formed Deer Management Committee, will need to be renewed yearly.
4. There will be a very limited number of approved archery hunters.
5. Adjacent property owners will have access to the list of archery

hunters.

6. Processing or field dressing of deer will not be allowed on adjacent properties.

7. Where possible, archery hunting will only be done in elevated, designated deer stands, the number and location of which will be approved by the Deer Management Committee.

The need for safe side walks in the Village is another high priority for the Village Board. We have identified a number of locations for either an upgrade or installation of new sidewalks. The Village along with the Town of Ulysses will be applying for a NY DOT Transportation Alternative Program grant to address the most critical sites for sidewalks. These sites include Lake Street, several sections of South Street, and near the Fairgrounds to link the Village sidewalks to Sure Save and Kinney Drugs.

2014 Budget

In April, the Village of Trumansburg Board of Trustees adopted the budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year which begins on June 1. Total budgeted expenditures for the Village stands just shy of \$2.3 million. This results in a tax levy of \$741,095 which translated to a tax rate of \$6.37 per \$1000 of assessed property value.

While the year over year increase in the levy and tax rate was substantial - in March the Board unanimously passed a local law overriding the State-imposed cap on tax increases - the entire increase is the result of needed staffing increases. Going forward, the Board will continue to look for ways to mitigate or manage ever-increasing costs, while seeking

to maintain the high quality services to which residents are accustomed.

Regarding the tax-cap override, there has been some confusion and misinformation with respect to the Governor's election year proposal to reward property owners if local municipalities remain within their cap. The terms of this "rebate" are for municipal fiscal years starting in 2015. Therefore, the Village budget that has just been passed does not preclude the possibility of taxpayers receiving a rebate from NY State at some point in the future.

That being said, it is important to understand that while Albany is seeking to pressure local municipalities to cut spending or merge services, the lion's share of all property

tax in NY State is the direct result of unfunded mandates by Albany on local school districts. For Village residents, over 58% of property tax is school tax, compared to the roughly 19% from the Village. It seems questionable at best to demand spending cuts while simultaneously requiring a high spending level.

As for the Village, the Board is committed to providing the highest quality of services possible to its residents, in the most efficient manner available. While the Board constantly strives for cost control, and is always sensitive to the rising costs of living faced by all residents, quality of services should not be sacrificed to satisfy Albany's appetite for budget gimmickry.

2014-15 Tax Rate

\$6.37

(per \$1,000.00 assessment)

EMS Billing

The partial fee-for-service EMS model that has been in place within the Village for nearly two years was adopted to combat a drastic increase in costs over the period between 2001 and 2010. While this was a simple budgetary solution to an otherwise intractable problem, there were a number of concerns expressed by Trustees, residents, and members of neighboring municipalities. Primary among those concerns was that billing for services might unduly burden residents who would be unable to afford the costs of ambulance service, and that some residents might delay or refuse care for fear of the costs. Over the last few years there has been a gradual and steady increase in call volume, which certainly implies that those fears have not come to fruition. Additionally, there have been very few applications for relief through the Village's charity policy that was designed and implemented to mitigate situations of legitimate financial hardship.

Generally speaking, revenue from billing covers approximately 15-20% of the total EMS budget, based on billable calls which occur in the Village as well as the Towns of Hector and Covert. The Town of Ulysses has chosen not to bill for service at this time. This revenue is able to offset some of the costs of having full time paid staff, but certainly not enough to cover the full costs of service. For the current fiscal year \$70,000 in revenue is expected from calls within the Village alone (about 35% of the Village's portion of the EMS budget for 2014) and we are currently on track to meet or exceed that projection.

After much debate and an, at times, challenging implementation process we are pleased to report that the reality of billing has gone much more smoothly than some had expected. For any questions or comments please feel free to contact EMS Commissioner Ben Carver at benjicarv@gmail.com

Public Safety

With the summer months upon us, the Village of Trumansburg Police Department would like to remind residents that basic safety is the responsibility of every individual. Though crime is relatively low in our area, it is not non-existent. Trumansburg Police respond to over 100 complaints a month, not including traffic violations. Remaining vigilant and alert is a good practice not just because of increased summer foot traffic and children playing, it is also the best way to limit the effects of any illegal activity.

Chickens In The Village

The "Chicken Law" was passed October 2013, allowing Village residents to apply for and obtain permits to keep chickens on their properties within the Village. The Village is currently taking applications and has a process in place to help you get up and running if you would like to raise chickens in your yard. The process is relatively simple for the 12 permits that will be issued in the 2013-2014 season. Based on the success of this years program, our hope is to grow the numbers of households that may have chickens the next year.

What do I need to do?

Simply, here is the process:

- Get an application either from the Village Office (contact is Bill Baker, Zoning Officer) or from the Trumansburg Farmers' Market (Market Manager Booth).
- Fill out the application. Here's what do you need:

1. Fee: \$ 40. for new applicants good for one year. Renewal fee is \$25.

2. Site Information:

- a. A drawing of the property showing dwelling, sheds, garages showing the location of the chicken coop and run. Drawing must show distances from property lines and structures.
- b. Drawing of type of chicken coop
- c. Materials of fencing

3. Chicken information

4. Name/address/ phone number/ email address

-- Get the completed application back to Bill Baker for his review, any changes, and approval. Bill will connect you with Shannon Williamson, our Chicken Education Liason for the Village. Shannon has a long experience with chickens and has volunteered to help us help you learn about the best practices around keeping chick-

ens, about coops and run designs, and demonstrate some of those best practices in a 2 hour seminar required as part of the application process.

Once approved by both Bill Baker and Shannon Williamson, and with all the appropriate application materials submitted, you should be able to get your coop in order and start having chickens of your own in the Village.

There will be information, resources and Chicken Mentors posted on the Trumansburg Farmers' Market website at www.tbουργfarmersmarket.com

History Minute

- Michele Mitrani, Village Historian

Nicoll Halsey

There are many historical research opportunities in a village such as ours that has such a rich history. Sometimes a point of interest evolves by accident when one research subject leads to another; however, in this case my inspiration was an actual accident.

Some of you may have noticed that the historical marker in front of the Halsey House (on Rt. 96 at the corner of Taughannock Park Rd.) has been missing. Back in September, a truck took the sign out, shattering it to many pieces. Thanks to the efforts of John Wertis, the Ulysses Town Historian, the truck company's insurance has paid to replace the sign, and it will soon be restored so that once again passersby are reminded that the Halsey House is a place of historical interest.

So of what interest is it? The Halsey House was built by Nicoll Halsey, a man who contributed much to the newly founded village and its surroundings. He was born in Southampton, NY in 1782 and moved with his family to Lodi, NY in 1793 (one year after Trumansburg was settled

by Abner Treman). He married Euphios McDowell of Ithaca in 1806, and together in 1808 they settled just outside the village at the site of the current Halsey House, establishing a farm and a mill on Taughannock Creek, along with having ten children, eight of whom survived into maturity. (Their first child, Hannah McDowell Halsey, married another prominent figure of Trumansburg: Oliver C. Comstock, a respected village physician, the first postmaster of Trumansburg, and a member of Congress.) In 1829, Halsey built the Halsey House in the Greek Revival tradition based on the idea that art and architecture were to mimic those forms of the Greek Golden Age, whose ideals Halsey believed our new country should espouse. The area around his settlement became known as Halseyville and contained many active mills in Halsey's time.

In addition to being a farmer and a miller, Halsey also was a carpenter and blacksmith and a seemingly devoted statesman and community benefactor. He served as Ulysses Town Supervisor for

several years between 1812 and 1826, State Assembly member in 1816 and again in 1824, Tompkins County Sheriff from 1819-1821, a term in Congress from 1833-1835, and was appointed the judge of Tompkins County in 1834. Along with this busy string of engagements, he employed himself as a master of the Trumansburg Masonic Lodge and helped found the Ulysses Philomathic Library, the Grove Cemetery, and the Tompkins County Home. He ultimately returned to milling, and then died while on a visit to Michigan on March 3rd, 1865. You can visit his gravesite in Grove Cemetery, Lot 31, where he is buried with his wife and three of their children under a bust of Halsey in a toga and laurel crown.

It is gratifying what you can learn from heeding a historical marker, but it can also be difficult catch the text of one in transit. Here is a handy link to the New York Museum's website that allows you to search the historic markers not just in your county, but your town: www.nysm.nysed.gov/historicmarkers/hisaction.cfm

Fresh Wednesdays at the Farmers' Market!

It doesn't get more local than shopping every Wednesday in the Village Park!

Please join us every Wednesday from May 14th - October 29, 2014 from 4-7 p.m. at the Village Park for the popular Trumansburg Farmers' Market. There is something for everyone from tasty things to eat while you are there, to tasty food to take home, the freshest produce, local meat, cheese, bread, dairy to specialty drinks, crafts and gifts.

We also offer special free programs and live music every week to just make the evening even sweeter with story hour from the Ulysses Philomathic Library kicking off the market from 4 - 4:30, music starting shortly after that with special things to do or learn. We also are the home to the free, and family friendly,

Please check our website for details on movies, and programming (www.tbουργfarmersmarket.com). For updates and news on what's fresh, fun and free, join us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/pages/Trumansburg-Farmers-Market/143441459077567)

The Trumansburg Farmers' Market is happy to support EBT and the SNAP programs.

New in 2014, join us in the Pavilions for a community potluck dinner on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. Our first supper will be Tuesday, June 3, 2014. Please bring family and friends, something delicious to share, table service and beverage for yourself and family. What a fun way to savor our summer in Trumansburg.

